MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; questions were obtained from some firms for a rock bar exploder for blasting rocks quickly and easily. But it was found that there was no demand for the rubble.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): My question was whether tenders were invited for the purpose of blasting the rocks.

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Are the Government aware that Mr. A. Madhavan Pillai, a Vakil of the Changanachery Munsiff's Court, gave a tender for the purpose?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The information is not here.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Government be pleased to estimate the cost of blasting?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The estimate itself will become useful only if the work is to be done. The question of taking up the work is dependent upon so many circumstances. The ryots originally agreed to pay enhanced assessment if the canal is opened, but, some of them backed out. So, the work depends upon the willingness of the people also. Therefore, nothing would be gained by estimating the cost of blasting alone.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): How many of the ryots backed out?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): The exact number, I am unable to give now. But a number of ryots, who originally agreed to pay enhanced assessment, have now retracted.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Am I to take it that the whole of the ryots backed out?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): No; I said a good number of them have backed out.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): May I know what proportion of the whole number turned out to be so unwilling?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): I cannot say that now.

Grant of P. W. D. Contracts for Road-making to local Contractors.

144. MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that the inhabitants of the localities traversed by the ryots' roads and other new roads are very anxious to see that those roads are really improved and well maintained?

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[Mr. T. J. Matthew.]

(*b*) Will not such persons, if they are given the contracts for improving or maintaining such roads, take greater interest in the work than strangers and turn out the maximum amount of work that can be expected with the amount allotted?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased to direct the Chief Engineer to give the contracts for the maintenance and improvement of ryots' roads and other new roads to persons of the localities through which those roads pass?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) Yes; naturally.

(*b*) Much will depend upon the persons who come forward to take up and are entrusted with such works.

(*c*) Contracts for the maintenance of minor roads will be given to such persons as apply to the Executive Engineer and will conform to the rules and practice of the department. In fact, the Chief Engineer has already issued instructions in this direction to the Executive Engineers in December, 1922.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Will the Secretary be pleased to refer to question No. 108 in the list of answered questions and compare it with question No. 144?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Are they not identical?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): Yes; they are identical.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): May I know, why, after answering question No. 108, the answer has been repeated to-day?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): It is due to a clerical mistake.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): Then, may I ask another question?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): If the member wishes to take advantage of a clerical mistake and ask a supplementary question, Government will have no objection to answer the same.

MR. T. J. MATTHEW (*Changanachery* cum *Peermade*): After the promulgation of the Insolvency Regulation, may I know how many original petitions in insolvency have been put in? That is one of the questions which I had asked, and for which no answer has been given. This is not a supplementary question. (*A little louder, please.*) I am putting a new question in the place of question No. 144, which, as I said already is a repetition of question No. 108 which has already been answered.

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MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): That, I fear, is not allowed by the rules.

Location of Liquor Shops near Places of Public Worship, etc.

145. MR. TARIATU KUNJITOMMAN (*Muvattupuzha cum Todupuzha*): (*a*) Will the Government be pleased to state how many of the liquor shops in the State are located within a furlong from places of public worship, schools and Government offices?

(*b*) Are the Government aware that the public are put to considerable trouble on account of the location of the said liquor shops?

(*c*) Will the Government be pleased immediately to order that, with a view to maintain public peace, sale of liquor should not be carried on within two furlongs from places of public worship, schools and Government offices?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government on other duty*): (*a*) The information is not available at present. It will be called for.

(*b*) Whenever any complaint arises against the location of a shop, prompt steps are taken to remove it to an unobjectionable site, as far as possible.

(*c*) There is already a departmental circular order that, whenever practicable, no arrack or toddy shops should be located within two furlongs of such places of public resort. A copy of the circular* order issued on the matter is placed on the table.

Sale of Malayalam Readers.

146. MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): (*a*) Are the Government aware that Malayalam Readers are not always available in the offices of the Assistant Inspectors and that consequently great inconvenience is caused to students and their parents?

(*b*) Will the Government be pleased to appoint additional selling agents and compel them to keep a sufficient number of copies always in stock?

MR. T. P. RAMASUBBA AIYAR (*Secretary to Government*): (*a*) and (*b*) Government are aware that copies of certain Malayalam Readers were not available for sale at the beginning of the current school year at the offices of some of the Assistant Inspectors. They have since been supplied with the required number of copies. Therefore, Government do not consider it necessary to appoint additional selling agents.

MR. N. KUMARAN (*Nominated*): The answer for the two parts of my question is given together. It is stated in the answer "They have since been supplied with the required number of copies". Is it answer to part (*a*) or to part (*b*) of my question? I did not require that information. Is it additional information supplied to me by Government?

* *Vide* appendix III—Page 881.

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